IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Cook   )
)
Serial No.: TBA   )
)   Examiner (Unknown)
Filed: TBA   )   Group Art Unit (Unknown)
)
For: **Improvements in or Relating to a**)
         Telecommunications Network   )
)
Attorney Docket No. 5577-019   )

Cary, North Carolina
1 September 2006

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please be advised that this is a **U.S. National Stage Filing of PCT Application**

PCT/E2005/050795.

Prior to examination, please amend the application as indicated below.

Amendments to the Claims

1– 15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A telecommunication network comprising:

a packet network;

a call control agent associated with the packet network, the call control agent being

configured to control at least one communication channel across the packet network;

a media gateway associated with the call control agent, the media gateway being configured

to receive and convert signals compatible with a first communication format into signals

compatible with a second communication format; and

a media streaming unit associated with the media gateway, the media streaming unit

configured to:

determine whether the signals compatible with the first communication format comprise

media data;

if there is more than one communications channel connected to the media gateway,

detect whether the media data is to be re-transmitted over another communications

channel, or whether the media data is to be re-transmitted on another timeslot over

the same communications channel; and

transfer the media data to a selected time slot on a selected one of the communications

channels.

17. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 16 wherein the media streaming unit is configured to convert the media data into the signals compatible with the second communication format if the signals compatible with the first communication format comprise media data.

18. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 16 further comprising a gateway core processor associated with the media gateway, and wherein the media streaming unit is configured to forward the signals compatible with the first communication format to the gateway core processor if the signals compatible with the first communication format do not comprise media data.

19. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 16 wherein the media streaming unit determines whether the signals compatible with the first communication format comprise media data based on call detail records associated with the signals.

20. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 16 wherein the media streaming unit is further configured to receive and convert signals compatible with the second communication format into the signals compatible with the first communication format.

21. (New) The telecommunication network of claim of claim 20 wherein the media streaming unit is further configured to:

> determine whether the signals compatible with the second communication format comprise media data; and

> if the signals compatible with the second communication format comprise media data, convert the media data into the signals compatible with the first communication format.

22. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 21 further comprising a gateway core processor associated with the media gateway, and wherein the media streaming unit is configured to forward the signals compatible with the second communication format to the gateway core processor if the signals compatible with the second communication format do not comprise media data.

23. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 21 wherein the media streaming unit determines whether the signals compatible with the second communication format comprise media data based on call detail records associated with the signals.

24. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 16 wherein the first communication format comprises pulse code modulation.

25. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 24 wherein the second communication format comprises a packet data format.

26. (New) The telecommunication network of claim 16 wherein the media streaming unit comprises a field programmable gate array.

27. (New) A method of streaming data through a media gateway connected to one or more communications channels, the method comprising:

receiving signals compatible with a first communication format at a media gateway over a communications channel;

determining whether the signals compatible with the first communication format comprise media data;

if there is more than one communications channel connected to the media gateway, detecting whether the media data is to be re-transmitted over a different communications channel, or whether the media data is to be re-transmitted on a timeslot over the same communications channel; and

transferring the media data to a selected time slot on a selected one of the communications channels.

28. (New) A media gateway interconnecting a first network to a second network via one or more communications channels, and configured to convert media data received in a first communication format to a second communication format, the media gateway comprising:

a media streaming unit configured to:

determine whether received signals compatible with a first communication format comprise media data;

detect whether the media data is to be re-transmitted over another communications channel, or whether the media data is to be re-transmitted on a timeslot over the same communications channel; and

transfer the media data to a selected time slot on a selected one of the communications channels.

29. (New) The media gateway of claim 28 wherein if the signals compatible with the first communication format comprise media data, the media streaming unit is configured to convert the media data into the signals compatible with a second communication format for transmission over the selected one of the communications channels.

30. (New) The media gateway of claim 28 further comprising a gateway core processor, and wherein the media streaming unit is configured to send the signals compatible with the first communication format to the gateway core processor if the signals compatible with the first communication format do not comprise media data.

31. (New) The media gateway of claim 28 wherein the media streaming unit is configured to:

   determine whether the signals compatible with the second communication format comprise

   media data; and

   convert the media data into signals compatible with the first communication format if the

   signals compatible with the second communication format comprise media data.

32. (New) The media gateway of claim 31 further comprising a gateway core processor, and

   wherein the media streaming unit is configured to send the signals compatible with the second

   communication format to the gateway core processor if the signals compatible with the second

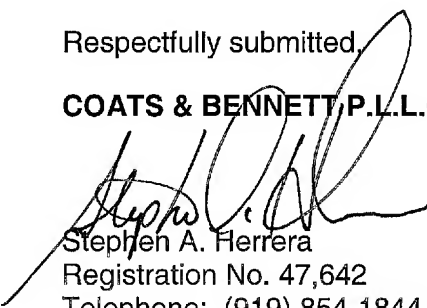   communication format do not comprise media data.

REMARKS

Applicant submits the following claim amendments prior to examination on the merits for consideration by the Examiner. The amendments cancel the existing claims 1-15, and add new claims 16-32. New claims 16-32 are substantially similar to (now cancelled) claims 1-15, but are written to ensure that the language of the claims comports with U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments prior to examination on the merits, and issue a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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